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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

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JUNE TRIP TO SACRAMENTO AREA

Eleven cars loaded with a mixture of Sacramento and Bay Area bird trailers explored the riparian woodlands along watercourses north of Sacramento, as well as the adjacent open fields and rice paddies, on Sunday June 10 under the very able leadership of Bill Kirsher of Sacramento.

We were about two or three weeks late for the height of the nesting activities, but many interesting and colorful species were seen. We were surprised to find the many species of waterfowl at this late date. Some undoubtedly were injured birds, but several flying pairs and small flocks were seen. The presence of Godwits and Long-billed Curlews this late in the season seems very unusual. The following 64 species were noted: White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Am. Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Am. Widgeon, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Am. Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Am. Crow, Com. Bush-tit, House Wren, Am. Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Historian.*

FALL BOAT TRIP TENTATIVELY PLANNED

An offshore boat trip, at the time when Gray-backed (New Zealand) Shearwaters seem to have been most common in recent years, is planned tentatively for Sunday October 14. Full details will appear in the September Gull. The sea is normally much calmer in October than at the time of our spring trips.

1956-57 SCREEN TOURS TO BE GIVEN AT BERKELEY

For the sixth successive season the Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor the Audubon Screen Tours at the Berkeley Little Theater, Allston Way near Grove Street. The five lecturers coming to us this year are tops in the fields of photography, natural history and conservation, and each will show the superb color films of America's wildlife and scenes of attractive places for which the Screen Tours program is famous. This year's dates, speakers, and their subjects are:

Wed., Oct. 10 — Ernest P. Edwards. Land of the Scarlet Macaw.
Mon., Dec. 3 — Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Cypress Kingdom.
Thurs., Jan. 17 — Howard Cleaves. Animals at Night.
Wed., Feb. 27 — Robert C. Hermes. Between the Tides.
Tues., Mar. 19 — Fran William Hall. Hawaii, U.S.A.

Since the series of lectures this year starts considerably earlier than in previous years, you should lose no time! SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION FOR TICKETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Application blanks were enclosed with the April Gull mailed to East Bay addresses; but if you have misplaced yours, or even if you live outside of the East Bay, and so didn't get one, just send your *name, address,* and *telephone number.* and the *number of tickets you wish* to "Audubon Screen Tours, P. O. Box 103, Berkeley, California," with checks made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. The price is $ 3.50 per season ticket for the five lectures. To spread the influence of this most worthwhile activity of our Society, and let someone new benefit from it, why not give a couple of tickets to some friends or relatives who do not already participate? Mrs. David P. Snyder, Chairman of the Screen Tours Committee, will mail tickets to applicants in the order of receipt of payment—beginning in September. If more information is needed, call her at TH 1-1747, or the National Audubon Society office in Berkeley, TH 8-4042.

EDITOR'S CORNER

FROM THE EXCHANGES: Several of our "exchange" societies have announced their new officers. Some closest to us geographically may be of interest to readers of The Gull: Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (Walnut Creek) — Miss Norma L. Warner, president (while Harry Adamson continues as director); Sacramento Audubon Society — Mr. Jack Dennison, president, and Mrs. Berniece Tisdale, editor; Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society — Mrs. Al J. Wool, president, and Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt (who spoke to our society a few months ago), editor.

In "The Observer" (Sacramento Aud. Soc.) for March is a report of a Caspian Tern that was banded July 7, 1935, at Clear Lake, Modoc Co., and found dead near Sacramento in November, 1955 — a ripe old age for a bird! The Bulletin of the Cleveland Audubon Society for May includes excerpts from a report on "Naturally Hybridizing Species" by Dr. Charles G. Sibley, now at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. (formerly active in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society). He reports on the new laboratory being developed at Cornell for the study of the comparative behavior, and hybridization (or lack of it), between closely related "species" such as the E. and W. Meadowlarks, Indigo and Lazuli Buntings, Yellow- and Red-shafted Flickers, etc. Colorado Bird Notes (Bul. of Colorado Bird Club) for April, 1956, includes a full

check list of the Birds of Colorado, with symbols indicating their relative abundance and zonal distribution. The July newsletter of the California Academy of Sciences reports that Mr. John Thomas Howell, their curator of botany and well-known to many Golden Gate members, is preparing a list of the plants of San Francisco. It will be the first such since 1892, since which time there have been many changes in the city's flora.

On May 30 the Paso Robles Audubon Society had a barbecue followed by a conducted tour of a beaver colony and dam — one of 12 on one ranch near Shandon. The July business meeting of the Altacal Audubon Society (Chico) was conducted on a "real-camp-out" field trip to Mt. Lassen, July 21 - 22. Thirty-nine of this society's members also enjoyed a boat trip on May 26 up the Sacramento River above Red Bluff, with stopover on an island. They report many interesting observations of plants, birds, and mammals, including deer and the work of beavers. The Oregon Audubon Society (Portland) was also planning a boat trip — but offshore, on July 14. Their June bulletin, the Audubon Warbler, contains fine stories on the discovery of new nesting grounds of Trumpeter Swans in Alaska and of the Musk-Ox herd of Nunivak Island, Alaska. Also included is a report of the occurrence of an Ancient Murrelet at Grant's Pass, Oregon (!), on Nov. 2, 1955, after a heavy storm. The April "Elepaio" (Hawaii Audubon Society) has an account of a boat trip taken by these islanders, outward to the south of Oahu, on which many persons present saw their first Black-footed Albatrosses, which are as hard to see from the shore there as anywhere, it seems. The 30 Pomarine Jaegers they observed was really a surprising record.

National Audubon's "Flying Egret" (news of the branches) listed the "Big Ten" Audubon branches which have the most joint members with the National, the Golden Gate and Los Angeles Audubon Societies being among those included.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members: from Berkeley, Mr. Joseph J. Rosedale and Mr. Ernest A. Peters; from Oakland, Miss Jean Pyle and Miss Verna Fersten; from San Francisco, Lt. Thomas M. Memory and Mr. Joseph J. Geary. The membership count is now 858.

— Jean L. Dunham, M.D., *Membership Chairman.*

FIELD TRIP IN AUGUST

On Sunday, August 19, to part of the new San Francisco Bay Salt-marsh Sanctuary and vicinity, near Newark. If you really want to see Clapper Rails and other marsh birds close-up, bring knee-length or taller boots or old tennis shoes (above the ankles) for most effective marsh travel. Those who don't wish to participate thus can view the marsh from an adjacent dry dike. The phalarope migration should be at about its height by this date, and there should be many shorebirds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Post Office in the town of Newark, east of Dumbarton Bridge, for a trip which will be led by Mr. Merle Reif of Newark who knows the area intimately. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends, and come to inspect our new sanctuary! Howard Cogswell will meet with the group at lunch and will show maps explaining the extent of the sanctuary.

— Lee Stallcup, *Field Trips Chairman.*

AUGUST MEETING AND GARDEN PARTY

The 467th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Sunday, August 26th, at seven o'clock, following supper in the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont. Take number 18 bus to Leimert and Park Boulevard. Walk one block north to Estates Drive.

As announced in the July Gull, this will be the annual Audubon Camp Scholarship Benefit Garden Party. Members and guests are asked to come at five o'clock for a barbecue supper prepared by the members of the Board of Directors and their assistants. Cost of supper and entertainment, $1.75. Supper reservations are limited to 150 — so send in yours (on the enclosed card) immediately to avoid disappointment.

The order of events will be: 5:00 — reception to greet friends and meet new members; 6:00 — supper hour with music by a well-known accordionist; 7:00 — community singing, led by Bert Harwell and Larry Moore; 7:30 — business meeting; 8:00 — welcome and comments on "Why give Audubon Camp Scholarships?" by Mrs. George C. Browne, and brief address on "The Increasing Need for Sanctuaries" by Dr. Reynolds; 8:30 — colored motion picture and lecture, "Habits and Behavior of the California Sea Otter," by Mr. Richard A. Boolootian of Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station.

Members unable to make reservations for supper may attend the meeting without charge. A voluntary contribution will be accepted from those not having supper reservations who wish to remain for the film and lecture.

We are indeed fortunate to have Mr. Boolootian present his remarkable film on this occasion. It is the only feature-length film that has ever been made of the California Sea Otters. This will be a first showing in the Bay Area. Untold expense and several years of intensive work and study have gone into its production. Over 10,000 feet of film were exposed to obtain a picture less than an hour in length. To obtain the most intimate and vivid shots of the sea otters (among the most difficult subjects in nature to photograph), Mr. Boolootian used a helicopter as well as the finest cameras and lenses obtainable. Mr. Boolootian is a marine biologist, his work on the Sea Otters (which will soon be published by Stanford University Press) being also the dissertation for his doctor's degree.

Come. Have fun. And don't forget the cause — the Audubon Camp Scholarships Fund!

— BONNIE SMITH, *Social Chairman,* and
LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman.*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

President	Mrs. George C. Browne	2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6,	TW 3-5469
Vice President	Dr. T. Eric Reynolds	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11,	AN 1-7121
Vice President	Mrs. Budd J. Smith	555 Dewey Boulevard, San Francisco 16,	OV 1-7635
Treasurer	Harold G. Peterson	3548 - 65th Avenue, Oakland 5,	LO 8-7534
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Roberta J. Long	45 Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco 14,	LO 4-7767
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Hermine H. VanGelder	2409 Bowditch Street, Berkeley 4,	AS 3-9740
Director	Arthur J. Bennett	836 Mills Avenue, San Bruno,	JU 8-6702
Director	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10,	GL 1-6267
Director and Editor	Howard L. Cogswell	Box 486, Mills College, Oakland 13,	NE 6-1573
Distribution Chairman	Miss Alice Leet	1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7,	LA 4-2488
Membership Chairman	Dr. Jean L. Dunham	4607 Harbord Drive, Oakland 18,	OL 5-1591

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way
Berkeley 4 — TH. 8-4042